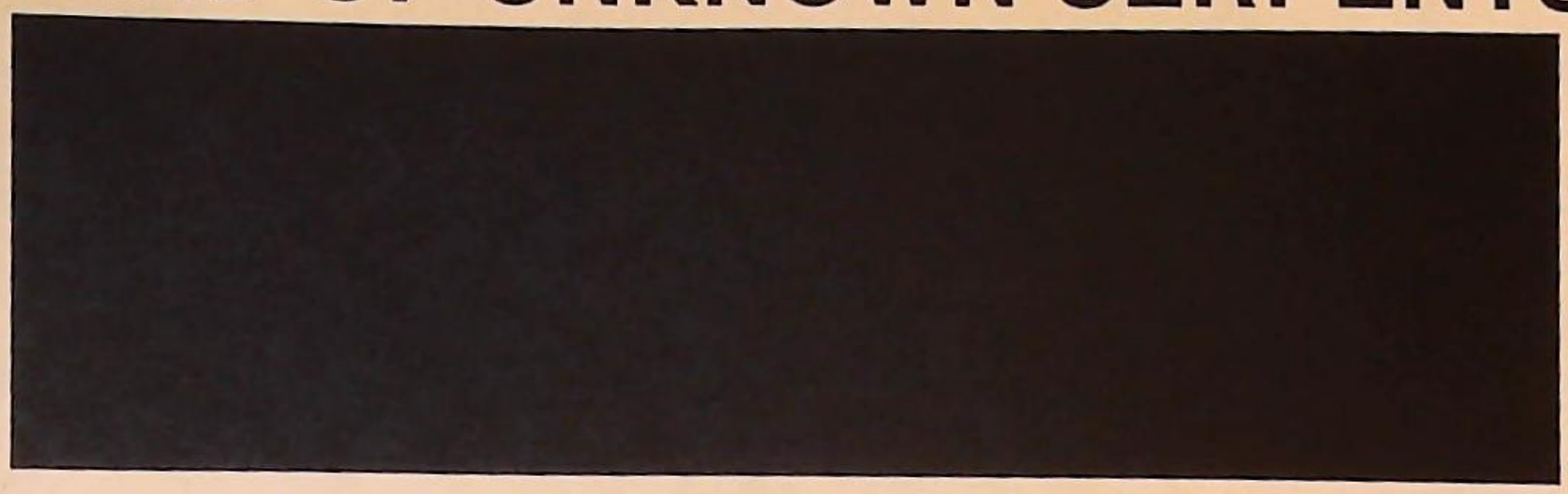
Sweden:
LAND OF UNKNOWN SERPENTS



Sweden has not only got The Great Lake Monster at Lake Storsjon, Province of Jamtland in the north of Sweden. There is reports from a over the country, even if lake monsters seem to be an endagered spec nowadays. They are popular to read about, but hard to report and most people are unfortunately being ridiculed when they come forward.

LAKE SALSTERN 1865-1870

In the Autumn of 1977, I was a fascinated listener to Olle Larsson, a supervisor from Bjorno-Nykyrka in Province of Ostergotland, who tol me about snakelike monsters that had been seen one hundred years earlier in the system of lakes surrounding Lake Salstern.

Sometime between 1865 and 1870, 12 year old Kalle Gustavsson and hi friend Adolf Tancred, of the same age, went to look for snake at Lake Svartsjon. There was plenty of vipers in the area and in these days there was nothing wrong in killing them, on the contrary.

"Kalle and Adolf had the shock of their life this day, because there w a snake in the creek that had twisted its body three times across it", says Olle Larsson. "As the creek was at least two meters wide, this snake must have been 5 to 6 meters long. It was brown in colour, had a mane on its back and antenneas on each side of its head that measurec 20 centimeters".

Adolf Tancred was scared out of his wits and ran home. Kalle Gustavsson was equipped with a fish-spear, but didn´t dare to use it. Instead he asked his mother to guard the snake and ran to the house to get Rubbert, a hunter. Rubbert was not home, however, and when Kalle returned the snake was gone.

"It sure sounds impossible with a snake 5-6 meters long in Sweden, b Kalle took an oath that what he and Adolf had seen was true, and I belived him", says Olle Larsson.

Some 20 years later, brothers August and Viktor Karlsson were lookir for crayfish in nearby Great Resjon Lake, or Blommedalssjon Lake as was called in the 1890s.

"In those days they used a tar-torch of pine and while August was punting along Viktor held the torch. Suddenly Viktor saw something i the water that was as long and thick as a timber log. He shouted to August, not to run it over! The next instant the monster disappeared into the depth. Large waves from it rocked the boat".

Around 1920 Gunnar Karlsson caught something big.

"He was fishing from his boat and whatever he had on, managed to tov his heavy boat", Olle Larsson continued. "It snapped free in the reeds and Gunnar himself thought it must have been a giant pike, but I doub that a pike could have been able to tow a boat".

Ten years later, in the summer of 1930, Olle Larsson himself was the witness of a mysterious creature at Lake Salstern.

"I was in my 20´s and came with a cart along the old roads by t lakes, when the horse reared for a large brown snake. I didn´t s more than 1,5 meters of it but it was thick as my upper arm!".

The "snake" had, acccording to Olle Larsson, come from Lake Bocksjor and "crawled over the road as an caterpillar" before it vanished into some high hazel shrub by the side of the road. "It was no usual snake, that´s for sure, and it must have been at least 3-4 meters long Olle Larsson concluded.

Could it have been a baby monster?

The description is quite consistent with what has been seen at anoth Swedish lake, Storsjon, Lake Seljordsvatnet in Norway and Loch Ness Scotland, and if you accept that these and other lakes could contain whole family´s of unknown animals, there must be babies as w

LAKE VASTJUTTEN 1899

In 1899 people around Lake Vastjutten, about 10 km north of Finspang

could take an oath they had seen "a dragon swimming in the lake, but also walking on the beach".

The north of Sweden has its monster´s too.

LAKE MALGOMAJ 1917

An interesting account comes from Jonas Lundberg, oldest in a famil who became pioneers for the boating traffic on the great lakes Malgomaj and Vojmsjon. Jonas Lundberg was deeply religious. A concious lie was unthinkable to him.

"Shortly before we reached Forsbergsberget Mountain, with Prastholn right below, I saw a large animal with a round head and a snakelike b coming sideways on the lake", he related in the summer of 1917. "The head looked like a pot, bottom first. I didn´t see much of its body, but it was at least 25-30 meters long and had a row of humps".

LAKE STENSJON 1934

Who can explain what came up in the summer of 1934 at Lake Stensjor some 20 km south-east of Soderkoping in the south of Sweden.

A man from Norrkoping should have seen a monster there for five summer´s in a row. He described it as 10 meters long, with a horselike head, dark and roundish. Elderly people in the area confirme there had been an unknown animal in the lake since the 1800´s.

An old woman who used to pick berries by Lake Stensjon said she had seen it on land and was so scared she left the forst and ran all the w home.

LAKE TAVELSJON 1943

On July 23, 1943, the Tavelsjo Monster appeared at Lake Tavelsjon son 30 km west of Umea in the north of Sweden.

"It looked like an upside-down boat and at first I thought it must hav been that", said a witness who whished to remain anonymous. "But th it dived into the water and the surface was calm once more. The anim came up again, however, whipping the water before it vanished a seco time".

A common belief was that the Tavelsjo Monster was a catfish, even if none had been encountered as far north and neither could live on that latitude.

LAKE RASVALEN 1950

A catfish was also thought to inhabit Lake Rasvalen at Lindesberg in Province of Vastmanland, even if what was seen was described as loglike, some 5 meters long and black in colour.

Sigvard Barnstrom from Vedevags Bruk, said that he in July 1950 had been on the lake at about 5 in the morning to search through the fishing-nets, when he saw a loglike object floating on the water, son 300 meters away. When he came closer it dived with a big splash and was gone.

"You have to believe your own eyes and I had a friend with me in my boat, who could testify that it was a giant monster, at least 5 meter: long", said Sigvard Barnstrom.

The two men started to chase the unknown animal. They were drawn i a hide-and-seek where the creature surfaced, dived back down, to resurface once again. The unlikely fishing went on for another three hours, before the monster vanished into the depth and stayed there. "Next time I´ll bring my rifle", said Sigvard Barnstrom.

The unknown animal was seen again in July 1953, when approched by four people in a motorboat. They were quite surprised to see an anim: some 4 meters long. When they came closer the beast vanished into th depth.

LAKE LICKASJON 1966

One summer´s afternoon in 1966, Ingvar Hansson, his ex wife a their three children, all from Motala, Province of Ostergotland (wher the author lives), went up to Lake Lickasjon and their summer´ cabin.

It was somewhere between 3 and 4 p.m. when the family stood on a small hill overlooking the lake, and Ingvar Hansson spotted something the water he couldn´t identify, but still sensed was a large animal.

"I asked my ex wife if she could see what I saw and she confirmed it"

he said later. "What we saw came straight at us and so fast that it created a wake. It was like a large boat had come on the lake!".

Some 150 meters away from the family, it dived but resurfaced again. Ingvar Hansson describes the animal as 3,5 meters long and narrowing at the front with a clearly marked head. It was greyish in colour and had a humplike back which appeared to move vertical through the wat

Ingvar Hansson was stunned by what he saw, but later thought it mus have been a catfish. His ex wife and children were so frightend by it, they didn´t return to the lake in a long while.

LAKE FEGEN 1969

Lake Fegen, on the border to Province of Vastergotland, also have a mysterious monster. At least 20 people saw it in the summer of 1969 describing it as a black body, 4 meters long, giving off a hissing sou

Einar Sandén at Lilla Katebo, chairman of The Local Board of Fisherie was at 8 o´clock in the morning, a weekday in May that same year, by the lake to see if anyone had got their boat into the water ye for the summer´s fishing.

"Suddenly I saw some kind of animal moving with tremendous speed along the opposite shore", he related some years later. "It caused no wake and the larger part of it was below the surface. Around somethi looking like a big hump with a tail behind it, I saw movements in the water".

Einar timed the animal to a speed of 1 300 meters in three minutes an saw it vanish behind Point Brattasen. Ten seconds later it came back along the same stretch of water, with the same speed, sank into the depth and vanished.

"Its cry reminded me of the gurgling sound that you hear when you empty a bottle full of water", Einar concluded. He described the anim as greyish-black, 3-4 meters long, about 1,5 meters across and 30 cm above the surface. It appeared to be smooth, consistent and looked lik an upside-down boat. When I asked Einer what he thought he had seen, said: "No idea, really. But I´m sure it was alive".

LAKE VATTERN 1975

In August 1975 a tourist was at the shore of Lake Vattern

(Sweden´s second largest lake, 130 km long and very deep), outside Hjo in Province of Vastergotland, taking pictures with an Instamatic camera of the scenery.

In the corner of his eye he saw a large body of an animal that looked like the now familiar upside-down boat. He quickly lowered his camel and snapped one picture.

When the picture was developed a week later, the evidence was inconclusive. The tourist claim that there is a "hump" in his picture, it might be a wave as well. Fishermen in the vicinity backed his stor however, saying that something large and unknown had ripped holes i their nets.

LAKE TINGSTADE TRASK 1976

In July 1976 the "Swamp Monster" reared its ugly head from the deptl of Tingstade Trask on northern Gotland, a large Island off the Swedisl east-coast. (Trask is the Swedish word for "swamp", that´s wl they called it the Swamp Monster).

Tingstade Trask, however, (and don´t be confused now) is desp its name a lake and not a swamp. The depth is only 3 to 5 meters with good visibility. There under, however, is a layer of mud that accordin to tradition is some 80 meters deep. In that mud one can find what is called Bulverket, a log construction from the stormy past of Gotland. that construction the villagers had small platforms and houses, whei they could hide when enemies closed in.

Teacher Henry Bendegard, hos son Per and an acquaintance to the fami Rune Thomsson, was fishing from their boat at sunset, when an unknc animal surfaced 100-150 meters away from them. "What we saw was a animal some 2 meters long with a roundish head and some kind of tai said Henry Bendegard to a local paper.

It was seen on and off that same summer, both by locals and tourists. The papers speculated in an underwater connection between Gotland´s number one tourist attraction, the fantastic Lummelunda caves and Tingstade Trask, but this has never been confirmed.

LAKE TORNE TRASK 1981

Five years later Anton Stockel from Kiruna, in the far north, took his

son´s family to their summer´s cabin at Salmi, Lake Tor Trask, Sweden´s deepest lake with its 150 meters. It was Monday, July 20, 1981, and they had just launched their boat when grandson Per shouted: "Grandpa, what´s that moving on the lake?".

Anton Stockel: "What we saw on a distance of some 400 meters was a animal which slowly moved towards deeper water. It was black in colour and 15-20 meters long".

At a telephone interview he told me that his father had seen the anim in the lake some 60 years earlier. "The description was the same. A large, roundish animal which looked like an upside-down boat", Anton went on. "I know of many people who has seen it, but they are afraid t be ridiculed".

EXPEDITION 1997

The background history is in my book, "The Great Lake Monster, The Oı at Seljord, Nessie and Others", published by Larsons in 1995, and afte more than 20 years of research on the subject I have now become par of a team, that is going to search the lake in the summer of 1997, usi the latest in technical equipment.

We are no fanatics. Our working hypothesis is that people have seen something alive and unknown in Lake Storsjon, but we don´t w to speculate what this might be. We will work unbiassed and methodically and our results will be documented for independent research by established scientist to study afterwards, so they could a professional analysis of them.

Storsjon, The Great Lake, is just as great as the its name says. It is t fifth largest lake in Sweden, situated at 292 meters above sea level and has a surface of 456 sq. km. It has a medium-depth of 30-50 mete and in one part of the lake divers has measured depths up to 100 meters. It wont be easy to search The Great Lake, but we are surely going to try.

View from Froson Island down towards Brunfloviken Bay, where many has seen The Gr Lake Monster.

For this purpose we need the most advanced echo-sounder, sonar, underwater cameras and such, that the market has to offer. We need

cars, boats and fuel. We need tents and complete camping equipment. all of this we are looking for sponsors, companies or private people. can contact us through E-mail, fax or phone, and I will tell you what have in store for you if you become a sponsor.